

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SPECIALIST

Official Monthly Journal of the



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Society for Czechoslovak Philately, Inc.

Silver Award Interphil '76 — Silver Award Capex '78 — Silver-Bronze Praga '78

A.P.S. Unit 18

Vol. XLVII

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No. 1, Whole No. 446

OVERPRINT FORGERIES OF CARPATHO- UKRAINE

By Miroslav-Blaha

Translated by H. Hahn from FILATELIE 4/1983, p. 112

The circle of collectors of documents and stamps of the Carpatho-Ukraine district of the USSR is not large here in the ČSSR. It is nevertheless essential that our own as well as the external collecting public be warned of the existence of dangerous forgeries of overprints on Hungarian stamps of 1945. We are here concerned with the falsification of overprints of the second printing of Carpatho-Ukraine, Zumstein 1-76, Michel 2-77 (Note: the first printing is thus far not known to have been falsified). Details of these forged overprints have been published in FILATELIE 1972/15-17. Up to 1980 these stamps were valued very low; only 275 ZuFr. The more recent valuation, however, in 1982 was 5,855 ZuFr., i.e., more than twelve times the previous amount, and that price does not include numbers Zu 33 and 56. Individual stamps rose in price even more markedly, e.g., Zu 38 from 3 Fr to 140 Fr, i.e., nearly fifty times the original value. These price increases and the small number of genuine overprints leads us to pay closer attention to the identification of the forgeries.

Since I have recently received several shipments for expertizing from here and abroad I should like to caution collectors to examine overprints of Carpatho-Ukraine



Fig 1.

Fig 2.

Fig 3.

carefully prior to any purchase. For orientation I have deliberately selected for comparison a single value 60/2f with black overprint.

Fig. 1 — Genuine of the second printing of March 1945 (for detailed description see *FILATELIE* — Philatelic notebook 72/16/61-62x).

Fig. 2 — Budapest forgery of 1961, broadly distributed. These exist in black as well as carmine. Since the overprinting was done manually using a rubber stamp, the letters are uneven and the numerals are larger.

Fig. 3 — A dangerous forgery originating in Uzhorod only in black, and printed from the original plates of the second printing which were by then highly worn. On my first observation of these overprints I erroneously surmised that these present the tail end of the unrecorded printings from the printing shop LAM in Uzhorod, i.e., printed upon completion of the official overprinting in March 1945. Following a recent visit to Uzhorod I have corrected my original supposition since I learned that one of the printing forms was stolen from the printing shop in 1945. From this form the now deceased forger manufactured overprinted stamps by hand, primitively, though from the original plate. He also overprinted previously cancelled stamps. Overprints from this "kitchen" have probably been distributed in the past two years. I have not seen them earlier, though the overprinting may have taken place as early as 1945 or 1946.

Distinguishing features of this forgery: the contours of the letters are not clearly defined, the inclination is at a higher angle, and the overall appearance is not as clean as the genuine.

A forgery of unknown origin, produced by typography, smaller print in "ANTI-QUA" also exists. These forgeries are without the numerals and are known to exist only in black. There is a period after "ZAKARPATSKA." These forgeries first appeared in 1968.

Should any collector own an overprint not described above and believes it to be a forgery, we would appreciate an opportunity to photograph and register the item. (Tr. note — please contact the SPECIALIST for forwarding instructions.)

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THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1937-38

By Prof. Dr. W. Haake

Translated by Richard Major from "Forschungsberichte aus der
Tschoechoslowakei"

All postmarks are like the illustrated double-circle cancelation and in orange ink. An autobus is depicted in the upper segment. All postmarks come from the period 1937-38. Postmarks with later dates belong to Slovakia or to the Protectorate Bohemia-Moravia.

In the case of monolingual place names the word "AUTOPOŠTA" is at the bottom; in the case of bilingual place names the words "AUTOPOŠTA - AUTOPOST."

The first travelling post office was introduced on the occasion of the Prague Auto Salon (16 to 24 October 1937). The postmark had a diameter of 34.5 mm and contained the distinguishing letters "a" through "h" in the lower segment. The second Autopost bus was first employed on 12 June 1938, and the postmarks contained the distinguishing letters "la" through "lh" to differentiate them from the postmarks of the first post bus.

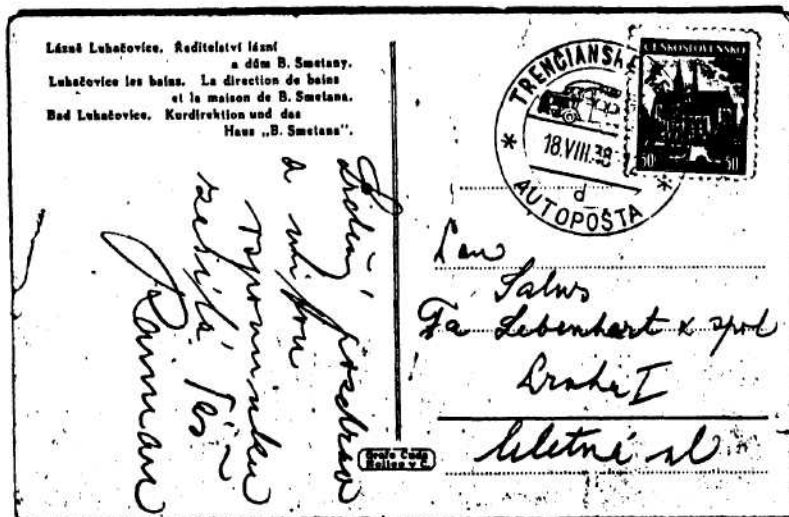
The activities of the autopost are listed below as far as I have knowledge of them to date, arranged alphabetically by location.

Location of Use:	Distinguishing Letters:	Dates of Use:
BRNO	a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h	28 Oct 37, 2 May 38 3-4 Sep 38



BRATISLAVA	a, b, c, d, e, f, g,	
ČERVENÝ KOSTELEC	h, -	30-31 Oct 37
ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE	e	22 May 38
HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ	lf, lg	9 Jul 38
	c, e	10 Mar 38

HRONOV	ld	28 Aug 38
JILEMNICE	b, e	5-6 Feb 38
KOLIN	ld	4 Sep 38
KOŠICE	f, h	17-25 Jul 38
KUTNÁ HORA	a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h	4-5 Dec 37
LIBEREC-REICHENBERG	ld, le	14-21 Aug 38
LUHAČOVICE	f	9 Jul 38
NACHOD	ld, le	31 Jul 38
OLOMOUC	b, c, d, e	11-13 Mar 38
PARDUBICE	a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h	26 Oct 37
PLZEŇ	lc, ld, le, lg	16-17 Jul 38
PRAHA	a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, la, lb, lc, ld, le, lf, lg, lh	16-24 Oct 37, 17 Nov 37 9-20 Feb 38, 16-19 Mar 38 12 Jun-6 Jul 38
STARA BOLESLAV	le	11 Sep 38



TRENČIANSKÉ TEPLICE	a, c, d, f	17-18 Jul 38
TRNAVA	f, g, h	11 Sep 38
USTI NAD LABEM - AUSSIG	c, e, f, g, h	2-4 Apr 38
ZLIN	a, d, e	30 Apr-1 May 38
ŽILINA	a, b	13-15 Aug 38

Readers who have knowledge of any other locations or dates are requested to report them, if possible submitting the items for examination, or at least a photo copy of them.*

*Editor's note: Any new information submitted by readers of the SPECIALIST will be forwarded to Prof. Haake.

STALAG VIII B

By RNDr Miroslav Vostatek — Translated by Henry Hahn

"Better death than fascist captivity" wrote Russian prisoner Ivan G. on the wall of his prison cell. He dated his graffito 5.9.1943 (September 5, 1943) and added "chronic escape." It is uncertain whether he did escape, or for that matter whether he was able to escape death at Stalag VIII-B.

Death was cruel and commonplace at Lamsdorf, a small town in Poland, now called — Łambinowice. It is located a little less than 50 km north of the Czechoslovakian frontier, near the border town of Mikulovice in northern Moravia.

Near Łambinowice there is now a museum dedicated to the memory of the suffering of the POWs. It is called "Muzeum Martyrologii Jeńców Wojennych." The museum includes not only World War II memorabilia including correspondence, but other material pertaining to the dismal past.

Łambinowice is located in a territory which once belonged to Prussia. Prussian generals selected this spot for a training camp for engineers and artillery back in 1862. The actual training camp was called Polygon. As time went on they requisitioned more agricultural land to expand the camp, and eventually divided it into "Field Camp 1" and "Infantry Camp 2." During the Franco-Prussian War in 1870–71, the first French POWs arrived there. They were housed in abandoned army barracks, but some spent little time there before being buried in the nearby cemetery. Fifty-three gravestones remain to this day, one even bearing the notorious name of Casanova.

By World War I more land had been added to the military training camp. The German VI Army Corps was formed here and departed for the front. Then for the second time POWs drifted in. This time the numbers were larger. The entire former Field Camp 1 was filled with prisoners, primarily Russians, but a few Poles. Later British and French prisoners also arrived, and eventually even some black colonial troops. As the numbers of prisoners swelled even prisoners from more distant battlefields came — Serbs, Romanians and Italians — and Camps 2, 3 and 4 were filled and a new camp 5 had to be established.

Many prisoners perished at Lamsdorf. The dead included 3571 Russians, 2602 Romanians, 344 Italians, 286 Serbs, 83 Britains and 80 Frenchmen. The gravestones, weathered by time, still survive.

All of the above was merely a prologue to what was yet to come. After 1933, the Polygon of Lamsdorf was taken over by the Wehrmacht. After September 1, 1939, the barracks were surrounded by miles of barbed wire, and the sign at the entrance gate read "DULAG VIII-B," i.e., "Durchgangslager" or Transient Camp VIII-B. The first Polish POWs arrived on September 3, and DULAG VIII-B became STALAG VIII-B ("Stammlager" or Permanent Camp) on September 4. It soon began to fill up with captured Polish troops. By the end of 1940 British and French POWs had also arrived, and eventually Dutch, Belgian, Canadian, American, Yugoslavian, Czech, Italian and even Hindu prisoners were included.

In 1942, STALAG VIII-B was moved to Český Těšín. This transfer occurred in stages. The command, which long remained in Lamsdorf, sent labor details to carry out road construction, river flood control, factory work, quarrying, etc. Then more work details operated both in present Poland and in northern Moravia.

I have in my collection a cover from the administration of STALAG VIII-B in Lamsdorf addressed to a commercial enterprise dated July 29, 1942. The cover contains a form letter invoice billing the commercial enterprise for prisoner labor and guard fees. The prisoners in this case were British.

Another POW Camp in the Lamsdorf area associated with STALAG VIII-B was STALAG VIII-F-318. This camp held only Russian prisoners, and its mission was their liquidation. The prisoners were there without a roof over their heads; they lived in hand-dug holes. What they ate cannot be called food. Thousands of Russian POWs thus died.

To give an idea of the size of these camps we must cite numbers. The largest number of prisoners held in STALAG VIII-B was 624 officers and 121,384 men on January 12, 1943. On September 1, 1942, STALAG VIII-F held 13,518 prisoners from the Red Army. STALAG 344 (of which more later) held 662 officers and 59,222 men. It is estimated that approximately 50,000 prisoners died in these three camps.

Kriegsgefangenenpost
 Письма военнопленных
 Письма офицерам и солдат
 Pisma dla wojennych jeńców

An Ed. Saula
 Name / Ime / Ime

Gottthard Jozef
 Name / Ime / Ime

Empfangsort: Nováky
 Name des Empfangsortes (Ort) / Empfangsort / Mesto na-
 mienkové odberu

Straße: i.d. 162
 Name / Nummer / Nummer

Kreis: Slavica
 Kreis, Gebiet / Kreis / Kreis

Distrikt: Slowakei
 Okres / Kreis, Gebiet / Województwo

Gottthard Jozef
 Im Namen des Offiziers
 Name des Offiziers
 Name des Offiziers

Figure 1. Late letter form from STALAG VIII-B (front).

Abender
 Name / Ime / Ime

Vor- und Zuname: Plot. Gottthard Jozef
 Name / Ime / Ime

Heute in Gegenwart: 110244
 Name / Ime / Ime

Gefangenennummer: 110244
 Name / Ime / Ime

Lager-Bezeichnung: M. Steninger VII B Heillager 344, Fullager
 Name / Ime / Ime

Deutschland
 Name / Ime / Ime

Form changed by hand to indicate "Heillager 344" (back).

STALAG 344 was established after the closing of STALAG VIII-B. It consisted of a "Russian Camp" and a "British Camp." The titles were, however, not strictly true throughout the camp's existence. At one time the camp even held some Slovak prisoners. An example of correspondence originating from a Slovak prisoner is shown in Fig. 1. Private Josef Gotthard of Pricvidza writes in February 1945, using a pre-printed POW form. This form is printed in German, Russian, Ukrainian and Polish. The prisoner bears POW No. 115244. STALAG VIII-B has been crossed out and the return address indicates that the POW is in "Heillager 344, Teillager," i.e. Hospital Camp 344, Section Camp.

At one time STALAG VIII-B held Czech RAF crews from Great Britain, however the local records do not recognize them as Czechs and list them as British. The fact that Czech RAF members were held there is documented by the back of the cover in Fig. 2, and by a recent interview with this former prisoner, Sgt. K. Batelka. He recalls: "after 3 weeks we were transported to STALAG VIII-B in Lamsdorf. Here I received my number 24771. Looking toward the south from the camp on a clear day I could see the mountains Jeseník and Javorník on the Czech border. I was welcomed at STALAG VIII-B by Arnost Zábrš, a Czech member of the RAF, who had been shot down over Berlin. His was probably the first Czechoslovakian RAF crew captured by the Germans.

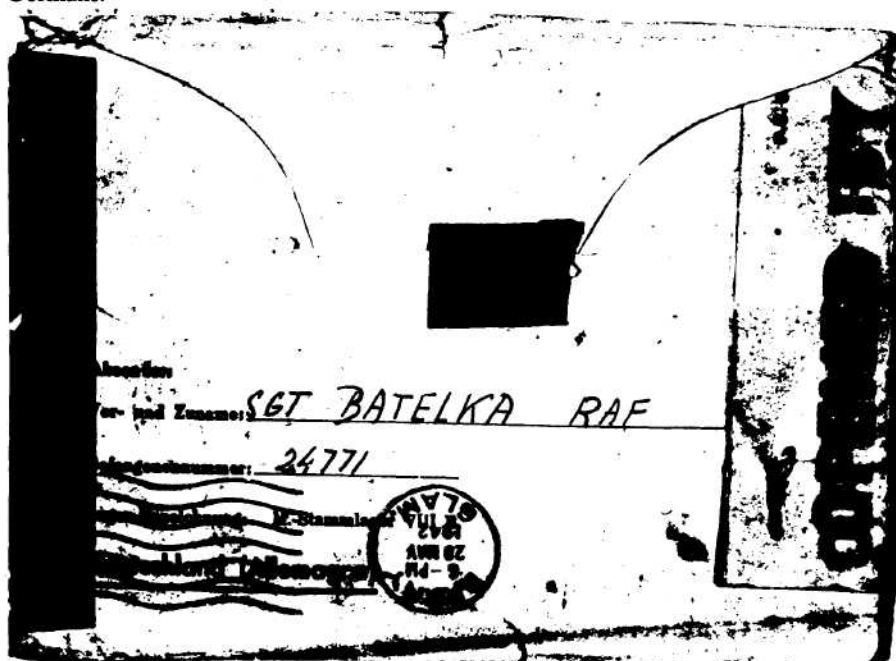


Figure 2. Earlier form for STALAG VIII-B from Czech RAF member to Barry, England.

The guest book at the Lambinowice museum is replete with foreign names. The visitors include Britons, Frenchmen, New Zealanders, and many others. Now there is also a Czech one — mine.

Translator's Comments:

In translating the above article I tried to remain faithful to the original text although I shortened it a bit by omitting some of the non-philatelic matter. I successfully resisted the inclination to add, particularly since I recently had the opportunity to study briefly

the STALAG material owned by Mr. Robert A. Dunn of Alexandria, VA, who was kind enough to permit us to reproduce the items illustrated below.

Dr. Vostatek alludes to the transfer of STALAG VIII-B to Teschen in 1945 toward the end of World War II. Based on the card illustrated in Fig. A, it appears that this move actually took place earlier, at least before November 25, 1944. (STALAG 344 was the temporary number assigned to STALAG VIII-B.) According to one reference,* this move may have taken place as early as April 1944.

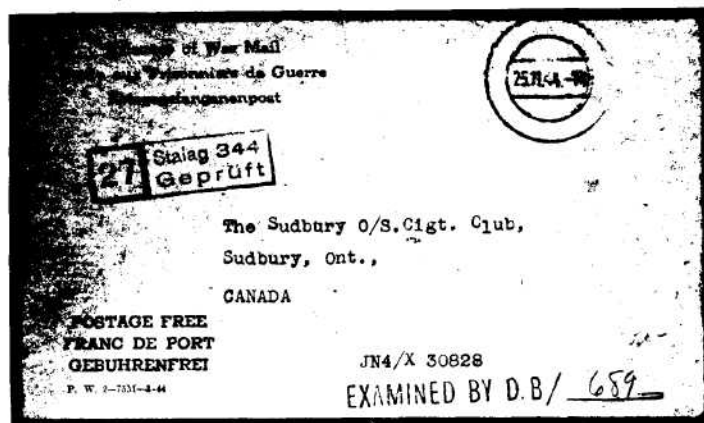


Figure A. Card from STALAG 344 to Canada.

The card from an American prisoner is shown in Fig. B. It is from the original Lamsdorf, Oberschlesien, period. It is censored by German and US authorities and went by air mail without surcharge, as customary. The postmark bears the date February 25, 1943.

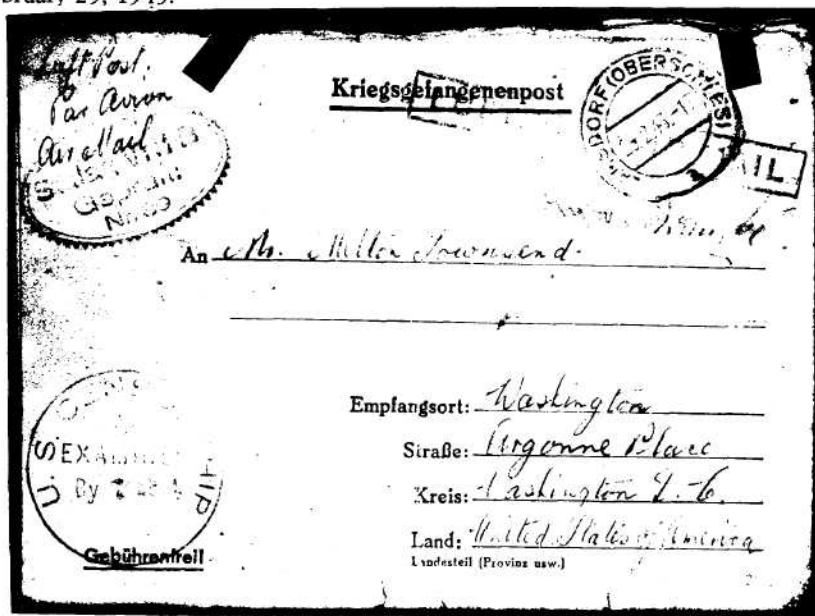


Figure B. Card from American prisoner at STALAG VIII-B.

*Norman Gruenzer, Postal History of American POWs: World War II, Korea, Vietnam

There is no illustration of the OFLAG VIII-F marking (Offizierlager or Officers' Camp) in the Vostatek article. It is shown in Figure C. It has been postmarked at WAHLSTATT über LIEGNITZ and bears the foreign letter rate franking of 25 Pfennigs. The requirement for postage is probably because this was not mail from a prisoner of war.

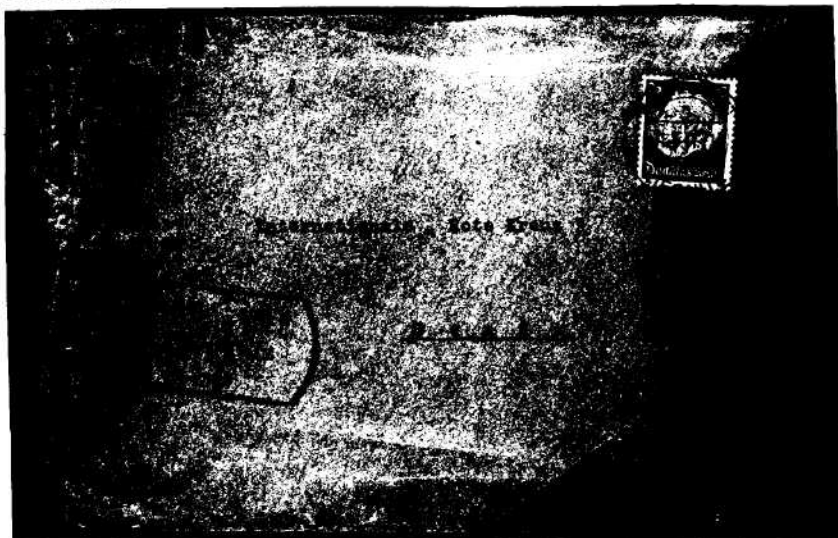


Figure C. Letter from WAHLSTATT with OFLAG VIII-B marking.

To round out this interesting specialty of German POW camps on Czechoslovak territory, we are aware of the following:

1. STALAG IV-C — Wisteritz bei Teplitz (Bohemia)
2. STALAG VIII-B-344 — Teschen (Silesia)
3. Hospital serving STALAG IV-C — Bilin (Bohemia)
4. State Hospital — Trenčín (Slovakia)
5. Lazaret Haida — Haida (Bohemia)
6. Hospital Francis Kusplatz — Prague
7. POW Camp in Bratislava (Slovakia)

We realize that it is possible that we have merely scratched the surface in listing the camps we are aware of. Your additions will be much appreciated and will be published.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN COLLECTORS SEEKING EXCHANGE PARTNERS

The SPECIALIST has received letters from the following collectors in Czechoslovakia who are seeking exchange partners in the United States. Since we know nothing more about them, it is suggested that interested members write first.

- Miroslav KRUPIK, 756 54 Zubří 355, Czechoslovakia
Collects colored postcards and 3-D stereos of flowers, writes English, age 32.
- Jiří WEISFEIT, Dlouhá 4590, 760 05 Gottwaldov, ČSSR
Exchange CSSR & East Europe for USA & Canada, English.
- Ladislav TUMIDALSKY, Olbrechtová 4, 040 00 Košice, ČSSR
Wants mint US, writes English.
- Štěpán PLENTA, Kydlinovská 257, 500 02 Hradec Králové II, ČSSR
Offers ČSR 1918–1939 for US.

AN INTERESTING 1912 ITEM

By RNDr M. Vostatek — Translated by H. Hahn

We recently came across a piece of Austrian postal stationery — actually a return receipt. It is printed on yellow paper, and its dimensions are 16×15 cm. The return receipt was sent together with a registered letter to an address abroad. Along the way this receipt gathered postmarks (transit markings) and finally the recipient's signature. This particular registered letter was sent by the Imperial and Royal County Court in the little town of HABRY (HABERN in German) in the Czech-Moravian Highlands. The town lies along the road leading from ČÁSLAV to HAVLÍČKŮV BROD. These days this town has no court. The addressee was Mrs. Petronella Wildschütz, at Immigrant House, 21st Street, Galveston, Texas, USA. Thanks to the postmarks and postal markings one may follow the route of the registered letter as well as that of the return receipt, and particularly savor the speed with which overseas mail moved.

The registered letter number 126 from HABRY was postmarked on July 22, 1912 (Fig. 1). That day it left by horsedrawn postal vehicle to the railroad station LEŠTINA u SVĚTLÉ nad SÁZAVOU, about 8 km distant. There the letter was transferred to the ambulatory post office operating between PRAGUE and VIENNA, on which it traveled some 100 km to PRAGUE in very little time. From PRAGUE it traveled by railroad to DRESDEN and thence to BREMEN on the North Sea (Fig. 2). The total mileage traveled within one day was about 1000 km. This is evident from the transit markings, which display the letter "R" — i.e., registered. The next postmark on the yellow receipt is from St. Louis, MO, on August 1, 1912 (Fig. 3). However, Mrs. Petronella Wildschütz no longer lived in Galveston. She apparently had left the immigrant home, and the letter was forwarded to her current address in Alta Loma, arriving on August 7, 1912 (Fig. 4). On that day she signed for the registered letter, and the receipt traveled back across the Atlantic. It arrived in the little town of HABRY precisely one month after posting — i.e., on August 22.

If we add the distances traveled by this receipt, we find it to be some 25,000 km. It did this in the days of horse-drawn vehicles, steam locomotives and transatlantic steamers in 31 days flat.

One cannot but pay homage to such service in days of air mail, rockets and satellite communication.



Figure 1. Habry/Habern postmark dated 22 July 1912.



Figure 2. Bremen-New York Seaport transit marking.

Transmitted through
AUG. 1 1912
St. Louis, Mo.
as Registered Mail.

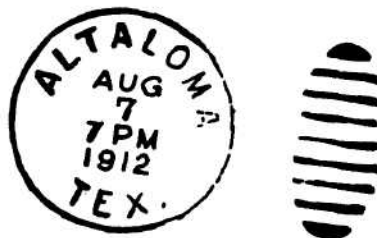


Figure 3. St. Louis, Missouri,
registered transit marking.

Figure 4. Alta Loma, Texas,
received marking.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editor,

For some time I have thought about undertaking a large research project concerning Siberian Field Post material. One of the questions that has long puzzled me is connected with the location of the Field Posts at any given time. There are at least two approaches to the problem. The first is to find material written on the subject and the second is to develop the material and write about it. I have found little in the literature other than the casual mention of where certain cancellers were used such as the Vladivostok cancels or ship cancels. But the most interesting questions are left unanswered in the literature. Many of the post offices were in fact located in different places at different times or on trains.

To identify locations during any given time frame, access to the archives would be very helpful. I will make an attempt at such a visit when an appropriate occasion arises in Praha. In the meantime, I am approaching the problem by trying to register as many covers, post cards, and documents as possible, using "internal" evidence to help establish the facts. In order to have confidence in my conclusions I have to establish as large a data base as possible. This has always been the rock on which my good intentions crashed. The prospect of shuffling hundreds of 3×5 cards was daunting. But this was before the age of the computers; now the sorting process seems manageable.

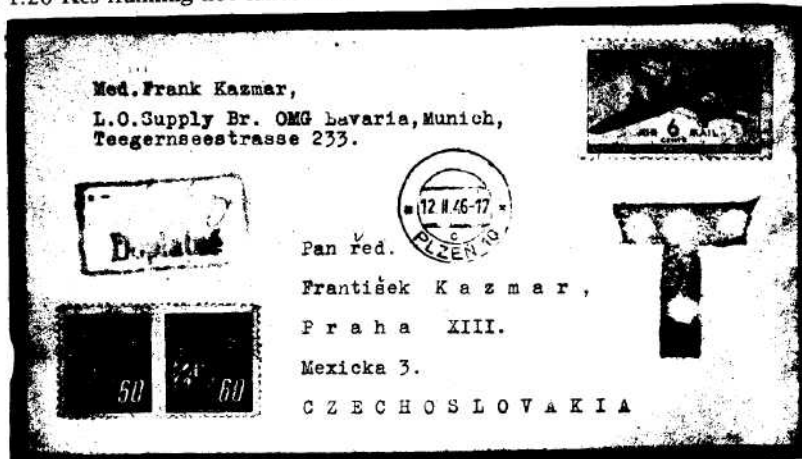
As an adjunct to this project I have undertaken another that may have even more benefit to the collector of Siberia. I hope to catalog all of the unit cancels and other quasi-postal markings that are found on the mails of the Czechoslovak Siberian Legions. To date I have acquired a goodly number, but new ones keep turning up. And finally I hope to establish a frequency count of the postal markings. Again I need the help of other collectors in this effort.

The purpose of this letter is to ask our philatelic colleagues for assistance. I need to know what they have in their holdings. I would hope that collectors with Siberian material would write me and let me know what they have. Xeroxes of both front and back (if appropriate) would be most useful, but if this is not possible, I have developed a form as an aid in the information gathering. I look forward to hearing from all that are interested in this material. Please write to:

Jaroslav J. Verner
American Embassy—USIS
APO New York 09862

ANY THEORIES?

A member recently sent us the cover illustration below for some pondering. It was obviously sent by a member of the U.S. Military Government in Munich to a relative in Prague. That much is clear — but that may be all that is clear. He could have used the APO system, and may have intended to use it — but apparently didn't. Someone may have carried the mail to Pilsen (Plzeň) in Czecho where the "altered" post mark was applied. If so, he seems to have applied 1.20 Kčs in Czechoslovakian franking which the post office failed to cancel. In any event, that was insufficient postage, since the letter rate went from 1.20 Kčs to 2.40 Kčs on Dec. 1, 1945. But the "Doplatné" (Postage due) marking presumably applied in Prague calls for a postage due payment of 4.80 Kč, i.e. twice the rate 2.40 Kč which would have been correct had there been no franking applied. Of course, the 1.20 Kč franking might have been applied after arrival in Prague — but why? Might it have been in partial payment of the 4.80 Kč? Since no franking appears on the back, was the balance paid in cash? Why was the 1.20 Kčs franking not cancelled?



Oh well, maybe our questioning member just stuck the two 60 h stamps on the cover to rattle us.

H.H.

NEW MEMBERS

1422 ORAVEC, John J., 1473 Coutant Ave., Lakewood, OH
1423 ZIEGLER, Clyde F., Box 35, Maitland, SA 5573, Australia

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

1375 PRIBIL, Donald, P.O. Box 68026, Haygood Sta., Virginia Beach, VA 23455

FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

First of all, the patron members will be happy to learn that the copies of the *SPECIALIST* have finally gone off to the binders, and they will soon receive the long overdue bound volume which is included with Patron Membership. Since the delay had brought us to the end of another year, the decision was made to include 1984, so 1982, 1983 and 1984 will be bound together in one volume, and anyone who was a patron member for even one of those years will receive one. A few extras are also being bound so that regular members who want one will also have a chance to buy it.

Unfortunately our illustrious president must have been looking at the wrong calendar when he gave the date for NAPEX '85, which will host our annual convention this year. The correct date is June 7 to 9, 1985, and the show will move to the Sheraton National Hotel, Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard in Arlington, Virginia. The new location is only about two miles from the old one, but the new accommodations should be much improved. Begin to make your plans now to attend. Entry blanks for exhibitors will be included in the February *SPECIALIST*. They must be received by the NAPEX Entries Chairman, Gordon Torrey, not later than April 20. The fee for exhibitors is \$7.00 per frame.

Permit your editor to again utter his perennial cry for help. You may have noticed that a very large portion of the articles in recent issues have been translations from the Czech done by Henry Hahn. If you have any sort of original material which could be published in the *SPECIALIST*, please write it up and send it to the Editorial Board. You can be assured that you will receive both thanks and recognition.

One final item — our Assistant Treasurer, Lou Svoboda, reports that the 1985 dues payments are coming in quite well. If YOU have not yet paid your dues for 1985, please put your check in the envelope which was enclosed with the November issue and mail it off to Lou right away. The Society is happily in the black right now. Let's keep it that way.

CLOSED ALBUM

We are saddened to have to report the death of member Genarino "Pete" Petracco of Huntsville, Alabama, in an auto accident. He was 55.

Pete was a retired Army master sergeant and had directed the 55th US Army Band at Redstone Arsenal. He was a member of the Huntsville Philatelic Club and was active in the annual HUNTSPEX exhibition. He had also won an award with his exhibit of Bohemia-Moravia at the SOCIETY's convention at SEPAD '84.

The Society extends our condolences to his widow, Mrs. Josephine Petracco.

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Please send your ads to the Editorial Office (see masthead)

Amount of Space	Consecutive in —			
	One Issue	Three Issues	Five Issues	Ten Issues
Full page	\$ 35.00	\$ 99.75	\$157.50	\$297.50
Half page	25.00	71.25	112.50	212.50
Quarter page	15.00	42.75	67.50	127.50
Eighth page	10.00	28.50	45.00	85.00

CHARLEY'S CORNER

We are indeed happy to once again resume our column, and we hope that in a small way we can make the **SPECIALIST** more enjoyable to our fellow collectors. We sincerely hope that you will find some worthwhile articles in the months ahead.

Many of the articles we will be writing should be approached with an open mind, so we will be asking you to read our articles with much thought and, if you disagree, then please write us back and we'll try to collectively solve some of these puzzles.

In our first article we will deal with the 10 Kčs "Pošta Československ 1919," Scott #B21 and B21A. How does one distinguish between both colors which exist in many shades? Then there are the clear and fuzzy and matted printings. Where do these printings belong?

In following corners, we wish to examine the 4 Kčs and 10 Kčs "Pošta" granite papers — Fact or Fraud?

The users of the stamps on the mail from Siberia 1918–1920. Phony cancels and cancel types on manufactured covers, stamps and cancels applied to genuine covers to enhance value, etc.

We are also planning a series on the great Czech dealers of the past — the first such article to be about Arthur I. Kessler.

Right now we are having photos taken of material which will be illustrated in these articles, so, hopefully, we can resume our articles in the next issue of the **SPECIALIST**.

Incidentally, we have just heard of the death of Professor Rudolph Gilbert of Prague. Professor Gilbert was the most famous expert in the stamps of Czechoslovakia and has expertised more stamps of Czechoslovakia than anyone else. There is not a collection of Czechoslovakia that does not have a stamp with "Gilbert" expert mark. Professor Gilbert died before Christmas (1984) — he was 88 years old.

We sincerely hope our fellow collectors will enjoy our corner again, and we hope to hear from a lot of you from time to time.

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